

# Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety

## Committee Members

Tim Sweeney, Chair • Bob Beaumier, Vice-Chair  
David Taylor • Terri Briere • Art Coulombe  
Ron Schmitt • Carl Weimer • Christian Amend  
Rosalie Ann Lopez • Jody Morehouse • Corey Herrick

## Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

### Meeting Minutes

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98504  
May 23, 2013

#### Present members:

Tim Sweeney, Chair  
Bob Beaumier, Vice-Chair  
Carl Weimer  
David Taylor  
Corey Herrick  
Art Coulombe

#### Absent members:

Ron Schmitt  
Christian Amend  
Terri Briere  
Rosalie Ann Lopez  
Jody Morehouse

#### Other attendees:

David Lykken, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Joe Subsits, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Jim Fernald, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Marina Woodard, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Rhonda Huynh, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Anna Gill, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology  
Ryan Paulsen, Dept. of Ecology  
Cheryl McGrath, Puget Sound Energy  
Dave Danner, UTC Commissioner  
Ben Hemson, NWGA  
Dan Kirschner, NWGA  
Ed Cimaroli, BP Pipelines  
Mark Scocollo, NUCA  
Brad Tower, Olympic Pipe Line  
Doug Chapin, U.S. Dept. of Energy  
Dave Yexley, Cascade Natural Gas  
Dave Hennen, ProSource  
Joe Rivers, JAD Environmental (JAD)

#### Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome, Introduction and Adoption of March 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes, and Election of Vice-Chair**

The meeting was brought to order by Tim Sweeney who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the March 7, 2013 meeting minutes as written. In a unanimous vote, Bob was elected as vice-chair.

2. **Industries Presentation on “Damage Prevention” (Presentation by Mark Scocollo)**

Mark Scocollo provided an overview of the “Dig Safe” damage prevention education training program that is offered to excavators regarding compliance with the Washington dig law. The training was developed following a grant awarded to the National Utilities Contractors

Association (NUCA) by the Utilities & Transportation Commission. (*Handout materials were not provided for this discussion*).

3. **Dept. of Ecology (DOE) Update**

Scott Zimmerman provided an Ecology update to members. (*This document is posted on CCOPS website*).

4. **UTC Chairman Introduction – Dave Danner**

Following introduction, Chairman Danner discussed the importance of CCOPS and provided ideas as to how the committee can help to increase the commission's ongoing efforts in pipeline safety. He suggested exploring methods for the committee to develop a more formal role in working with the commission. This could include the availability of a UTC policy advisory staff that could serve as a resource to the committee. Following a general discussion, questions were raised as to how the committee could identify and develop an outreach role to communicate important issues to the public. This could include presentations at Association of Washington Cities and other similar meetings. Also, the committee could work to identify local and national organizations to partner with in addressing pipeline safety issues. He also proposed the development of an annual committee report describing overall pipeline issues and efforts to ensure that pipelines are being operated, maintained, and inspected properly.

5. **Whistleblower Protection – David Lykken**

Dave provided an overview of OSHA's Pipeline Safety Improvement Act. In part, the law protects pipeline workers against retaliation for complaining to their employers about unsafe or unhealthful conditions in the workplace. Whistleblowers may not be transferred, denied a raise, have their hours reduced, or be fired or punished in any way because they have exercised any right afforded to them under this law that protects them. Whistleblowers must file complaints within 180 days that the incident took place. Dave also explained that UTC Pipeline Safety addresses whistleblower complaints that convey concerns or allegations indicating a violation of pipeline safety laws or rules enforced by UTC. (*This document is posted on CCOPS website*).

6. **Public Comments**

Dan Kirschner with Northwest Gas Association provided comment regarding the committee's discussion for development of an annual report describing current pipeline issues. He believes there is great value in having an independent analysis and written report from the committee on this issue. However, he recommended that the content of the report should be constructive in nature and specifically focused on improving pipeline safety in Washington state.

7. **UTC Update – David Lykken**

- **PHMSA Public Meeting Webinar** - Carl Weimer and Patti Johnson will sit on a discussion panel during the meeting. This is a two day event (June 19 & 20) in Richardson, Texas.
- **US Senate Bill** – A Senate bill is being proposed for allowing state safety programs to regulate well bores for both gas and liquid hazard storage that involve interstate transportation. Kansas Senator Pat Roberts is preparing a bill to allow states to assume this safety regulation which is currently regulated by FERC.
- **PHMSA Training Program** – PHMSA has announced they are going to initiate a new mentoring program which allows experienced state inspectors to assist in the training of new inspectors or smaller state programs that don't have experience in larger joint inspections program activities. UTC Pipeline Safety will be volunteering staff in this training effort.

- Williams Northwest Power Plant Project - Williams has withdrawn its FERC application to build approximately three miles of transmission pipeline for the proposed plant.
  - UTC Proposed Rulemaking – The rulemaking will not be a formal rulemaking but an open discussion with the industry on possible changes to current rules. Workshops tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Oct 1 (Hazardous Liquids) and Wednesday, Oct 2 (Gas). A formal rulemaking may happen sometime in Calendar Year (CY) 2013 proposing an increase of current administrative penalty amounts to \$200,000 for each violation, with a maximum of \$2 million for a related series of violations.
  - Damage Prevention – Dave noted that 45 letters were sent to excavators that reportedly damaged pipelines and had not called for locates. This damage information was obtained from UTC's Virtual DIRT on-line reporting tool. The letters reminded excavators of their responsibilities under the new dig law and provided a fact sheet that outlines requirements of the law and penalties for non-compliance.
  - Complaint Letter – A consumer complaint letter was sent to UTC Pipeline Safety and Patty Murray. The anonymous letter alleged wrong doing by the City of Ellensburg in its maintenance of its gas pipelines. Pipeline Safety thoroughly reviewed the letter and concluded that there was no merit to the safety allegations. Dave and Joe responded to the committee's detailed questions regarding the allegations in the anonymous letter. No action was taken.
  - Commissioner Phillip Jones – Dave noted that Commissioner Jones was featured in the American Gas Association Magazine as the new NARUC President for 2013. Commissioner Jones has been a strong advocate for pipeline safety and has made it one of his priorities during his term as NARUC president.
8. **Dept. of Ecology (DOE) Update**  
Scott Zimmerman provided an Ecology update to members. *(This document is posted on CCOPS website).*
9. **Industries Presentation on “CNG Proposed Hanford Project” (Presentation by Doug Chapin (US DOE), Dave Yexley and Dave Hennen (MDU Resources))**  
Cascade Natural Gas provided a presentation on the status of the proposed Hanford pipeline project. *(Handout materials were not provided for this presentation).*
10. **Future Agenda Review (FAR) – 2013 Meetings**  
Members were provided a copy of 2013 FAR document and agreed with the following items:
- Committee Annual Report - Committee to supervise the creation and review of an annual report as discussed with Dave Danner. What content needs to be included in the report?
    - This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney
  - Obtain a copy of the contract specifications for the Dig Safe training that Mark Scocollo presented during the 5/23/13 meeting.
    - This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney
  - Emergency Planning & Response /GIS/ Natural Disaster Issues
    - This topic was recommended by Tim Sweeney

- Committee should begin to track national issues that may impact Washington state.
  - This topic was recommended by Carl Weimer
- UTC Update - Master Meter/Small Gas Pipeline Systems
  - This topic was recommended by Dave Taylor
- Annual outlook of Natural Gas Market in the Pacific Northwest what they are forecasting
  - This topic was recommended by Dan Kirschner, NWGA, and volunteered to provide the committee with an annual outlook of the natural gas market in the Pacific Northwest, including any forecast on future growth new proposed projects or expansions.
- Early Earthquake Warning System Presentation
  - Ed Cimaroli with BP Olympic stated they have signed an agreement with the University of Washington regarding development of an early earthquake emergency warning system. Ed will work to determine if information is available for sharing at the September CCOPS meeting.
- GIS Mapping – Olympic BP Presentation
  - Ed Cimaroli with BP Olympic stated they will be updating their GIS mapping system using public available information. Ed recommended this topic and stated that he's willing to share information with the committee regarding the outcome of this project.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.